COPELAND FAMILY

THE 'COPELAND' FAMILY

In 1782 Joseph III Copeland was one of the first settlers of Jefferson County, TN. He settled south of the French Broad, seven miles above Danbridge (Annals of Tennessee – end of the 18th Century).

About 1785 Colonel Stephen Calvin Copeland and son Joseph III (Big Joe) Copeland packed their horses with provisions, seeds and a few crude farm implements, bid goodbye to their family and started across the mountains in search of a new home in the wilderness. They came to the Upper Cumberland area settling in what is now Overton County, TN and said to have been among the first three settlers. They located on the north fork of Roaring River, four miles west of Livingston and one mile off the river from Windle. This was over the Indian line (which they didn't realize) on 640 acres granted to Col. Stephen because of military service in both the American Revolution and War of 1812. They were hundreds of miles from civilization in the wilds among the Indians, wolves, panthers, bears, and wild cats. It is said they planted the first crop of corn and credited for making and naming 'beef jerky'. (History of Overton County, TN)

Joseph III (Big Joe) became friends with Nettle Carrier, chief of the band of Cherokee, who resided in this area when the white people began their settlement in this section plus they often hunted together. Big Joe, married a Cherokee girl, Hannah Thatcher Ward. David Crockett also lived in this area.

In September 1793 after several other invasions, the Joseph III (Big Joe) Copelands home was plundered by a party of 30 Indians but escaped by crossing the river and was an eye witness (see map in my files of this area)(Territorial Papers Volume IV 1790-1796)jwb

Col. Stephen Calvin Copeland donated land, laid out, and help build the Roaring River United Baptist Church and is buried here. It was a peculiar church house – made of large hewed poplar logs with twelve corners (a corner for each apostle). I have a drawing of this building in my files.

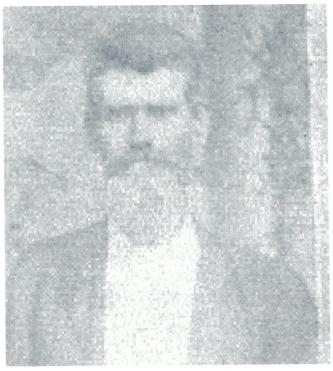
Eventually Big Joe owned all of Copeland Cove, one of the finest valleys of land in this section of the country. He worked as a farmer and stock dealer, buying and driving cattle to Baltimore, Maryland which was the nearest stock yard.

Big Joe became a legend in this area, he was 7'3" tall and weighed 350 pounds plus his sons were all about the same size. He was a giant in both strength and intellect with many stories of his feats of strength. For example, on one occasion he was plowing and a man came into the field wanting to fight him. Big Joe became so irritated he threw the man over the fence and then threw the mans mule after

him. It is said he killed 60 mature bears one of which he killed with one blow. He could crack black walnuts with his teeth, he was known to have lifted a grown tree out of his path, he lifted a 40 gallon barrel of water to take a drink – many, many similar feats of strength. In the book 'History of Overton County, Tn' the listing of his children include Jefferson Madison, my greatgreatgreat-grandfather.jwb

Jefferson Madison Copeland was born 2-1812 in Copeland Cove, Overton County, Tennessee; died 11-1867 in Liberty Hill, Williamson County, Texas; married 1830/32 in Copeland Cove, Overton County, Tennessee to 2nd cousin Mary Ann/Jane Copeland who was born 10-1814 in Livingston, Overton County, Tennessee; died 9-1905/07 in Liberty Hill, Williamson County, Texas; her parents were Richard and Margaret Peggy (Hartsaw) Copeland. Their children were Jasper Newton, Richard Marion, Elmira, James M.Overton, Margaret Elizabeth, Hannah Catherine, Winnaby William, Sarah A, Mary Ann II, Josiah Joseph F, and Martha.

(1)*Jasper Newton b 8-1834 Overton Co, Tn; died 9-1897 Williamson Co, Tx; married 6-1854 Overton Co, Tn to Selina Fish Jackson who was born 7-1827/30 Tn or GA; died 3-1874 Liberty Hill, Williamson Co, Tx and her parents were George Jackson b 2-12-1792 and Margaret Jackson b 9-22-1792. Their children were Jefferson Andrew, *Margaret Thatcher, James Wesley Newton (Jim Buck), Woodrow Woodson Marion and Samuel Marshall.jwb



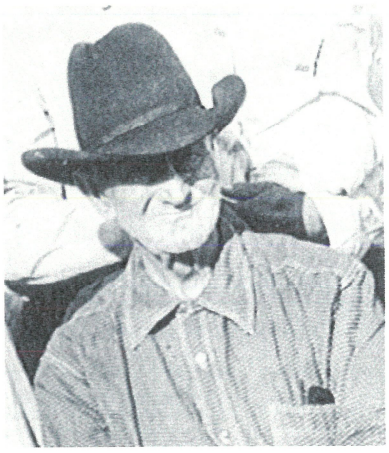
(Jasper Newton Copeland)

In the book 'History of Overton County, Tennessee' on page 48 in the story of the 'First Settlers of Overton County', the last two paragraphs have mention of a Moses Fisk of a survey party who became lost finding Col. Copeland and Big Joe. Later this Fisk established Hilham, where he built the first female school in the South. I wonder if there's some connection between this Moses Fisk and Selina Fisk Jackson who married Jasper Newton Copeland.

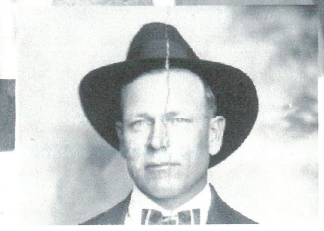
(a) Jefferson Andrew b 2-1857 m 5-1882 Williamson Co, Tx to S.K. Ratliff

(Jefferson Andrew/SK Copeland family)

(b) *Margaret Thatcher b 10-28-1858 Overton Co, Tn; d 9-1892 Wills Point, Van Zandt Co, Tx/Terrell, Kaufman Co, Tx; m 12-1880 Williamson Co, Tx to James Elisha White; children – William Newton m Emma Deadmon , James Andrew m Laura Mincher (family story with pictures in my files plus at county historical societies), Rufus Arthur m Lillie Stover, Wilford Carol m Bertha Mae, Ollie Ondus m Pearlie Turland.jwb



(Margaret Thatcher Copeland) **(James Elias White)**



(all of James A/Laura White family at their 50th)

(Wilford White and 2 of his girls)
(William White)

About 1892 Margaret Thatcher (Copeland) & James E. White with their 5 boys left the Liberty Hill, Texas area heading for Oklahoma. The spent their last night at her Uncle Jim Copelands. From the front porch of their log cabin four miles north of Liberty Hill, Tx – her parents and other Copeland relatives waved as they were riding off in the ox driven wagon. After spending one night out of Wills Point, Texas, they were getting ready to leave and one of the oxen rared up, fell back on to tongue of the wagon. They men rode into town, got a new tongue, came back, put on wagon and by then Margaret was sick; therefore, the family rented a farm in the Wills Point area. Margaret died and the family farmed 4 more years before deciding to go on to Oklahoma along with others including one of Whites brothers with one of Whites brothers staying in that area. Heading for Oklahoma were 9 covered wagons, 2 surrey, 35 head of cattle and some horses. The first night they camped on the river near Denison, Texas. From there they crossed the prairie making their own roads. They went to the Burns Flat, Okla area and became prosperous farmers. (see family stories with pictures in my files and at county historical societies for James Andrew White and Laura Mincher, Basil White and Neoma Sanders)jwb

(c) James Wesley b 8-1862 Williamson Co, Tx; d 4-1932 Williamson Co, Tx; m 11-1882 Williamson Co, Tx to Mary Emiline (Emma) Dykes; children - Margaret Elizabeth m Joe Thomas Moore, Marshall Harrison m Lena Evelyn Whitehead, Martha Selina m William Thomas Shepherd, Ivie Afton, James Mal m Sara Albert Washington & Margaret Ann Anderson, Thomas Dewey and baby girl that died young

(James Wesley/Emiline Family)

(Copeland/Dykes Families)

(J.W.Copeland Family – J.W. in in front with beard – not sure who others area)

(d) Woodrow b 1-1867 Williamson Co, Tx; d 9-1867 WilliamsonCo,Tx

(e) Samuel Marshall b 11-1870 Williamson Co, Tx; d 9-5-1874 Williamson Co, Tx

(2) Richard Marion b 11-1834/36 Overton Co, Tn; d after 1910 Williamson Co or Bell Co, Tx; m 7-1859 to Burilla Catherine who was born 5-1836 in Tn or Watauga Co, NC. Their children were Jonah Joseph D, Sarah Adline m Prior Shed, Rufus R.F. m Lizzie

(3) Elmira Jane b 7-1839 Overton Co, Tn; d 10-1867 Williamson Co, Tx; m 5-1856 Tn or Watauga Co, NC to Patrick Woodson; children - James Jefferson, John M. m Tate Wooten, Mary jwb

(4) James M Overton b 10-1841 Oakhill, Overton Co, Tn; d 12-1910 Jones, Tx; m 8-1866 Bastrop Co, Tx to Julia B Ellen Perry b 7-1847/48 Montgomery, Ala; d 8-1918 Jones, Tx; her father was Benjamin Perry; children - Martha Ellen m John Williams Jr, M.A., Lasthena, Jasper M. m Martha S. McAnally, Jefferson Benjamin m Aurora F. McAnally, Verlena Catherine m Jim Cook, Laura Bethanar m W.Oscar Morris, Sarah Adaline m Wm Martin and Hawley, James O Jr m Virgil Lucille Sipe, Lou Alice m Lem C. Burton, Margaret Effie m Trannie E. Collum

(5) Margaret Elizabeth b after 6-1844 Overton Co, Tn or Williamson Co, Tx d 4-1926 Williamson Co, Tx; m 3-1862 Williamson Co, Tx to James Wesley Perry b 1-1840 Tallopossa, Alabama; d 10-1907 Williamson Co, Tx; his father was Benjamin Perry; children - Olia Overton m Tenn/Tinny Samuel Dycus, Jefferson Madison, James Wesley Jr m Donie M. Wilson, Lura Lula Lee, Dora A

(Lizzie Copeland and children)

(6) Hannah Catherine b after 6-1845/47 Oakhill, Overton Co, Tn; d 10-1897 Tx; m 1861/62 Williamson Co, Tx to Benjamin Tichner Perry b 1-1844 Montgomery Co, Ala; d 12-1932 McCulloch, Tx; his father was Benjamin Perry; children - Mary Eliza, Sarah, Leondus, Margaret A, Arlando Edgar, Martha, Otha, Josephinejwb

(7) Winnaby William b about 10-1848 Overton Co, Tn or Watauga Co, NC or Willilamson Co, Tx; d Williamson Co, Tx; m 1869 Williamson Co, Tx to Callie Copeland b 9-1850 Mississippi

(8) Sarah A b 8/9-1849/50 Overton Co, Tn; m Stewart b about 1850 Watauga Co, NC

(9) Mary Ann II b 4-1851 Williamson Co, Tx; d 6-1928 Williamson Co, Tx m 3-1872 Williamson Co, Tx to Adam G. Miller b 1-1835 Tx or In; d 10-1916 Williamson Co, Tx; children – Hannah C, Samuel F, Synthia A

(10) Josiah Joseph b 12-1853/55 Williamson Co, Tx; d 11-1913 Williamson Co, Tx; m 1-1881 Williamson Co, Tx to Jennie M. Shedd b 8-1857 Tn; d 3-1944 Williamson Co, Tx

(11) Martha b 8-1857 Williamson Co, Tx; d 9-1867/77 Tx; m 7-1876 Williamson Co, Tx to Olander L. Boullion b about 1857

Some believe our line comes through James Copeland and Elizabeth Swallow as my Jefferson Madison Copelands parents. Also that the Copelands are of Irish descent with three Copeland brothers coming from Wales, landing at Charleston, South Carolina and two of the brothers remained in the south and one going to Pennsylvania.

But I feel I have adequate reason (inc. the book 'History of Overton County, TN' with the listing of his children include Jefferson Madison, my great greatgreat-grandfather – see notes in my Family Tree Maker for my reasoning) to believe Jefferson Madison Copelands line is as follows – beginning with his parents

Joseph III (Big Joe Copeland) b 1780-83 NC, d 4-17-1857 Copeland Cove, Overton County, TN married 1-15-1816 Overton Co, TN to Hannah Thatcher Ward b 1790 d 1-16-1869 Copeland Cove, Overton County, TN. Children – Agnes, Sally, James Richardson, Louisa, Stephen Harrison, Moses Wilkerson, my Jefferson Madison, Josiah/Joseph Anderson, William James Ellison, Solomon Addison, Octavia (I have more information on their children).

Col. Stephen Calvin Copeland b 1756 Chatham Co, NC/Shenendoah, VA d 6-19-1833/35 Copeland Cove, Overton Co, TN married about 1782 VA to Sarah Jane Townsend b 11-10-1766, NC d 8-11-1866 Overton County, TN her father was

John Joseph Townsend. Children – Joseph III, Sarah, my Stephen Calvin, Amelia Elizabeth, Solomon, John Townsend, Nicholas, Emily Elizabeth, Mary, Marvin V., William (I have more information on their children).

Joseph II Copeland b 1728 Chatham County, NC d 6-11-1816 White Plains, Jefferson, TN married 1749-55 Chatham Co, NC to Sarah Jane Sheehorn b 1732 NC d 1820 Jefferson Co, TN her father was John Sheehorn. Children – Joseph Jr, my Stephen Calvin, Josiah, Zacheus, Richard/Rickets, Isabel, Solomon, Susannah, Elizabeth, Nicholas, Mary (I have more information on their children).

Nicolas II Copeland b 1697 Essex Co, VA/Isle of Wight, VA d 1742 Orange Co, VA or Chatham Co, NC married 1720-26 Chatham Co, NC to Nancy Jane Lott b 1704 England d 1742 Orange Co, VA her father was Aaron Lott. Children – my Joseph II, William, Nicholas III, Joel Josiah, James, Peter, Anne, Elizabeth, Thomas, Mary (I have other information on their children).

Joseph I Copeland b 1670-80 England or Isle of Wight, VA d 8-22-1725/26 Chuckatuck, Isle of Wight, VA married 1694 England or Isle of Wight, VA to Mary Woodley b 1675 England d 1720 Chuckatuck, VA her parents were Andrew Woodley and Elizabeth Hill Harrison. Children – John II, my Nicholas II, Thomas, William, Elizabeth, James, Mary (I have other information on their children). Per SN - Joseph I Copeland was beaten and run out of Plymouth in 1656.

Nicholas I Copeland (John Nicholas/Nicholas John) b 1838/40 Isle of Wight, VA/Essex Co, VA/Middlesex, VA d 12-20-1693/7 Isle of Wight, VA/Chuckatuck, VA married about 1670 Isle of Wight, VA to Elizabeth Taberer b 10-1663 Isle of Wight, VA d 1720 Isle of Wight, VA. Children – John Josiah, Thomas, Mary Margaret, William, Ann, my Joseph I (I have other information on their children). Elizabeth Taberer father was Thomas Taberer, member of house of burgesses from 1657-1680 and his father was William Taberer of Justice County Court in England 1654-1680.

John I Copeland b 2-24-1612/16 Lancashire, England d 1-9-1682/1718 Isle of Wight, VA or England while visiting married 1640-51 Isle of Wight, VA to Sarah Ratliffe b 1634 Isle of Wight, VA d 1675-87 Isle of Wight, VA parents Richard & Elizabeth Ratliffe. Children – my Nicholas I, William , Joseph, Hannah, Sarah (I have other information on their children). Per SN – John I Copeland was beaten and run out of Plymouth in 1656 because of religion (Quaker) and had a mutilated ear.

Lawrence I Copeland/Copeland b 1590 Dolphin Leigh, Cumberland, England d 1630-4l Dolphinholm, England married 1609 to Susannah Hill & Ruth. Children – Thomas, James, Henry, Francis, Mary, Susan, Elizabeth, Robert, Lawrence II, my John I (I have other information on their children). Lawrence I was a Puritan

---The family has extensive records, pedigree charts, pictures, etc. **With input from various sources**

-my Aunt, Ada White
-my Mother, Neoma Sanders White
-See my SOURCE list * for all sources used in family stories and genealogy program

---Plus family stories I've written with input from other sources at Genealogy/Historical Societies in the various counties where the family lived (some in the process of completing and submitting to the Genealogy/Historical Societies in which the families lived) *jwb*

-James Andrew White & Laura Mincher (grandson)
-Basil Lowell White & Neoma Sanders (great-grandson)
-Also family stories for other branches of the family

---I have the Family Tree Maker Genealogy program with all this information plus much, much more

Compiled and written by greatgreat-granddaughter, Jackie Mae (White) Bishop (jmbhdb@aol.com) (9/2000 revised)